

Monica Wesolowska
2422 Jefferson Ave
Berkeley CA 94703

Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to express my opposition to the petition by US Telecom that seeks exemption from sections of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Despite the petitioners' claims, I would personally be negatively affected.

I currently connect to the internet and have land-line phone service through an independent provider (Sonic). Sonic, and other local providers like LanMinds, provide fantastic, local service at a lower cost than either AT&T or Comcast in my area. If the US Telecom petition is granted, I could be forced to use one of the other carriers and pay a higher price for worse service.

Granting the petition would stifle healthy market competition -- in fact, that's precisely why US Telecom filed the petition. It doesn't want its member companies to have to compete with smaller, better providers.

The access to high-speed broadband has grown hugely in recent years, precisely because of the requirement in the 1996 Telecommunications Act that requires large carriers to make their lines available to other providers. Eliminating that provision will only give companies like AT&T more monopolistic control over broadband access and stifle fair market competition. Americans like me will be harmed as our options will be reduced.

You must REJECT the US Telecom petition. Failure to do so is un-American.

Monica Wesolowska